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# Pet Travel From the United States to Cayman Islands

Last Modified:

## Electronic Signature **ACCEPTED**; Original Ink Endorsement **REQUIRED**

**For Accredited Veterinarians:** Electronic signature **ACCEPTED**

**For APHIS VMO:** Original ink endorsement **REQUIRED**

USDA-accredited veterinarians can electronically issue health certificates and use VEHCS (Veterinary Export Health Certification System) to submit them to USDA for endorsement.

**USDA must ink-sign and emboss the health certificate.**

What This Means for You

**Accredited Veterinarians:** Use the links below to access or get help with VEHCS. Learn more about [how to issue export health certificates](#).

**Animal Owners/Shippers:** You can arrange to have your health certificate returned by mail (a prepaid, preaddressed return label must be provided during

certificate submission). The endorsed health certificate—ink-signed and embossed—must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or travel.

[VEHCS Help](#) | [VEHCS Guide](#) (7.58 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

## **Electronic Signature and Digital Endorsement ACCEPTED**

**For Accredited Veterinarians:** Electronic signature ACCEPTED

**For APHIS VMO:** Digital endorsement ACCEPTED

USDA-accredited veterinarians can electronically issue health certificates and use VEHCS (Veterinary Export Health Certification System) to submit them to USDA for digital endorsement.

**USDA can digitally endorse the health certificate and return it electronically.**

### What This Means for You

**Accredited Veterinarians:** Use the links below to access or get help with VEHCS. Learn more about [how to issue export health certificates](#).

**Animal Owners/Shippers:** The endorsed health certificate can be printed out directly from VEHCS and does **not** have to be mailed back to you. The printed, endorsed health certificate must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or travel.

[VEHCS Help](#) | [VEHCS Guide](#) (7.58 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

## **Electronic Signature ACCEPTED; Digital Endorsement for SOME COMMODITIES ONLY**

**For Accredited Veterinarians:** Electronic signature ACCEPTED

**For APHIS VMO:** Digital endorsement for SOME COMMODITIES ONLY

USDA-accredited veterinarians can electronically issue health certificates and use VEHCS (Veterinary Export Health Certification System) to submit them to USDA for endorsement.

**Digital endorsement varies by species—see requirements on this page for details.** The health certificate either bears the original ink signature and embossed seal **or** digital signature/seal.

What This Means for You

**Accredited Veterinarians:** Use the links below to access or get help with VEHCS. Learn more about [how to issue export health certificates](#).

**Animal Owners/Shippers:** Digitally endorsed health certificates can be printed out directly from VEHCS. For non-digitally endorsed health certificates, you can arrange to have your health certificate returned by mail (a prepaid, preaddressed return label must be provided during certificate submission). A paper version of the endorsed health certificate must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or travel.

[VEHCS Help](#) | [VEHCS Guide](#) (7.58 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

## Travel Requirements Based on Pet Type

**Carefully read ALL of the requirements related to your pet on this page.**

- This page provides the most recent entry requirements and can change without notice.
- It is the responsibility of the veterinarian to make sure the pet has met all health requirements of the destination country before issuing a health certificate.
- Failure to meet the requirements may result in problems gaining certificate endorsement or difficulties upon arrival in the destination country.
- Health certificates must be legible, accurate, and complete.

[Expand All](#)

## Pet Dogs and Cats

The health certificate must be issued by a licensed veterinarian. USDA endorsement is NOT required. Please take a copy of the import conditions to the veterinarian who will be preparing your pet.

Please read the following information carefully. Failure to meet these requirements exactly as outlined below will result in your dog or cat being refused entry into the Cayman Islands. Your local USDA Accredited Veterinarian will be able to help you with adhering to the requirements. Please take a copy of the import conditions to the veterinarian who will be preparing your pet.

[Please View Conditions Governing the Importation of Dogs and Cats into the Cayman Island for detailed information.](#)

[Expand All](#)

## Step 1: Permit to Import

All dogs and cats entering the Cayman Islands must be accompanied by an **Import Permit** issued by the [Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture](#).

Completed application forms, all supporting documents and the non-refundable application fee must be submitted to the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture. Upon successful completion of the import requirements, an import permit will be issued. All correspondence and copies of the documents for consideration beforehand (up to six months with payment) may be sent to:

Veterinary Services  
Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Cayman KY1-1106  
Cayman Islands

Physical address:  
181 Lottery Road, Lower  
Valley Bodden Town, Grand  
Cayman

Tel: (345) 947-3090

Fax: (345) 947-6501

Email:

[CI.Agriculturevs@gov.ky](mailto:CI.Agriculturevs@gov.ky)

### **Types of Import permits:**

**Single Entry Import Permit:** this permit is valid for 14 days from the date of the Official Health Certificate. This permit is appropriate for dogs and cats moving to the Cayman Islands on a permanent or long-term basis and for all dogs and cats entering the Cayman Islands for the first time.

**Multiple Entry Import Permit /Cayman Islands Animal Passport:** valid for a period of one year. This permit is appropriate for dogs and cats travelling to and from the Cayman Islands more than three (3) times a year. With this permit, there is no need to apply for an import permit with each entry; however a new Official Veterinary Health Certificate must be obtained with each entry. Your dog or cat must be resident in the Cayman Islands at the time of application for an Animal Passport.

Passports cannot be issued to dogs and cats entering the Cayman Islands for the first time. Application forms are available at the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture. The passport is only for travel into the Cayman Islands and is NOT accepted by any other country as an import permit.

[Cayman Island Import Permit information](#)

## **Step 2: Prohibitions**

- In accordance with the Animals Law (**2015** Revision), no animal of any description may be imported into the Cayman Islands from any country in Asia,

Africa or Central and South America. Other territories from which dogs and cats are prohibited are Cuba, Mexico, **Puerto Rico**, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

- Certain breeds of dogs or crosses of such breeds are not allowed to be imported into the Cayman Islands. Genetic material such as semen and embryos from these breeds is also not eligible for entry into the Cayman Islands. All applications for the importation of dogs into the Cayman Islands must be accompanied by a written declaration from the owner/agent of owner attesting that the dog to be imported does not belong to or is not crossed with one or more of the following breeds or type of dogs. **(This declaration is included in the import permit application information in Step 1)** In addition, the applicant must provide a color photograph(s) of the dog at the time of application that shows the true likeness of the dog.

These breeds include:

- Pit Bull Terrier and its breed types;
- Dogo Argentino and its breed types;
- Fila Brasileiro and its breed types;
- Japanese Tosa and its breed types; and
- Any breed of dog or crossbreed of dog whose breeding lineage was for the primary purpose of dog fighting.

### **Step 3: Health Certificate**

In order to bring your dog or cat into the Cayman Islands, the following procedures must be carried out **in the order shown below**:

**1) Your dog or cat must first be permanently identified with a microchip transponder and a microchip implant certificate issued. Proof of the date of implant is required.**

As of March 1st, 2019, all animals receiving new microchips should have International Standards Organisation (ISO)-compliant (15-digit, numerical) microchips implanted. Animals with microchips implanted prior to March 1st 2019

will be accepted with an ISO-compatible (10 or more alphanumeric characters) microchip. **Please contact us at [ci.agriculturevs@gov.ky](mailto:ci.agriculturevs@gov.ky) for guidance on animals which have multiple microchips. The microchip number must be recorded on all documentation required for the importation of your dog or cat.** Once implanted, the microchip must be scanned prior to completing each step of the importation process (e.g. prior to rabies vaccination, prior to rabies titre testing, at the time of health certificate examination prior to tick and tapeworm administration).

## **2) Rabies vaccination**

**After identification, a licensed veterinarian using an approved inactivated or recombinant vaccine must then vaccinate your dog or cat against rabies and issue a rabies vaccination certificate. Note that 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year vaccinations are recognised.** If your veterinary clinic does not have a (rabies) vaccination certificate template, then the template provided in Appendix V should be used. Your dog or cat must be at least twelve (12) weeks old before the primary (first) rabies vaccine is given. Subsequent booster vaccinations must be administered one year later in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix VI. Only after that second vaccination can the interval for revaccination be extended legally to 2 or 3 years with a product that has 2-year or 3-year duration of immunity label. Any lapse with revaccination may result in your dog or cat being delayed to enter the Cayman Islands.

**The microchip number must be recorded on the rabies vaccination certificate. Vaccination certificates without a microchip number will not be accepted. The rabies vaccination certificate must also contain the make, serial number, validity of the vaccination, and expiry date of the vaccine product used. If your dog or cat was vaccinated before being fitted with a microchip, it must be vaccinated again.**

## **3) Rabies titre testing and eligibility to enter**

**A blood test must be taken after vaccination to confirm the presence of protective antibodies against rabies.** The blood test, a Fluorescent Antibody

Virus Neutralising Test (FAVN), must be carried out by a laboratory approved by the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture for carrying out such a test at a minimum of 30 days after the most recent rabies vaccination. The test result must show a serum antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml and must bear the animal's microchip number. **Test results bearing the wrong microchip number will not be accepted and a new test will have to be carried out.**

**A list of major approved laboratories can be found in Appendix III. Please contact us at [ci.agriculturevs@gov.ky](mailto:ci.agriculturevs@gov.ky) for information on other potential laboratories.**

**Your dog or cat will be eligible for entry into the Cayman Islands not less than two (2) months and not more than twelve (12) months after the date the blood sample that gave a successful test result was drawn. To continue to be eligible to enter the Cayman Islands without delay, the titre test must be repeated on/before the 12 month expiration date.**

#### **4) Tick and tapeworm treatment**

**Within 14 days of the scheduled date of travel to the Cayman Islands your dog or cat must be treated for tapeworms and ticks. The treatment must be recorded on the Official Veterinary Health Certificate.**

- For tapeworms: a preparation containing **praziquantel** at a dose rate of 5mg/kg body weight.
- For ticks: a 'systemic' preparation known to have residual action. Approved product ingredients include fipronil, amitraz, pyrethrins, permethrins, and isoxazolines.

NOTE: The following products are NOT acceptable: Shampoos, collars, preparations that are licensed for control of fleas only (e.g. Program® Advantage®, Revolution® or Sentinel®).

#### **5) Health Certificate**

**Also within 14 days of the scheduled date of travel, your dog or cat must be examined and issued with a Veterinary Health Certificate** . The health certificate must be completed and signed by a licensed accredited veterinarian of the exporting country. The Cayman Islands does not require endorsement of the dog and cat health certificates by an official government veterinarian and will accept health certificates completed by a licensed accredited veterinarian.

[International health certificate](#) (312.65 KB)

**6) The following must be submitted to the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture for processing:**

- completed Application Form
- copy of the Microchip Implant Certificate
- completed Breed Declaration Form (Dogs Only)
- copy /copies of rabies vaccination certificates for rabies vaccinations administered after microchip implant
- copy of the Official Veterinary Health Certificate
- copy of the Rabies Titre Laboratory report; and
- a non-refundable application fee payable to *Cayman Islands Government* must be submitted to the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture for processing.

(Accepted forms of local payments are Cayman Islands and United States cash and checks drawn on a Cayman Islands bank – no credit or debit cards are accepted. Accepted forms of international payments are United States Bank Draft and United States International Money orders – no personal checks, credit or debit cards are accepted).

Once complete documentation is received and the application fee is paid the application will be processed and a reply given to you within **three (3) working** days.

**7) If accepted, an Import Permit will be issued. Unless otherwise specified, the import permit is valid for 14 days from the date the pet was examined and the tick and tapeworm treatments administered.**

The permit can be sent to you by fax or e-mail. Attach a faxed/printed copy of the permit, along with the **original documents** presented to support your application to the carrier in which your dog or cat will be transported.

**8) You must give at least 48 hours notice of expected date and time of arrival, along with details of the vessel or airline if such information was not provided on the application form or the travel arrangements have changed** (e.g. Date, Airline and flight number). (See *part G: Transportation Instructions*.)

## Step 4: Eligibility for Importation

These conditions apply to specified countries or territories in which rabies is absent or well controlled. These are as follows:

**a) Countries and Territories recognized as being rabies free by the Cayman Islands Government:**

Antigua, Australia, Barbados, Bermuda, Great Britain, **Hawaii**, Ireland (Rep), Jamaica, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, St Vincent.

**b) Countries and Territories recognized where rabies is well controlled:**

Anguilla, Aruba, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Curacao, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guadeloupe, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Martinique, Monaco, Montserrat, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Martin, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, **US Virgin Islands, USA**, Vatican.

Notwithstanding prohibitions on Section D (1), territories not listed on Section E may make representation to the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture for inclusion in the above lists.

## Step 5: Transportation Instructions

1. All animals travelling to the Cayman Islands must do so by the most direct route possible.
2. Animals travelling by air must be carried in an approved container, which meets standards set by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
3. All documents accompanying the animal must be affixed to the container.
4. If travelling other than by direct route from the country of origin, **through a territory not on the approved list**, the door of the container must be sealed with a government approved seal in the country of origin before the animal is loaded onto the aircraft or vessel with the number on the seal entered onto the health certificate by an airline or government official (e.g., agriculture, customs).

## **Step 6: Inspection on Arrival**

Possession of a valid Import Permit does not guarantee entry. All animals and documents are subject to examination at the port of entry by an Agricultural Health Inspector. Should the animal fail to meet entry requirements, the Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer (CAVO) or his designate may at his discretion and at the expense of the importer, order that the animal be refused entry and returned immediately or be destroyed. Detention or quarantine is **NOT** an option in the Cayman Islands.

### **PENALTIES:**

Failure to comply with the above import conditions is an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine and to imprisonment for six months. The animal(s) under Law may be ordered to be destroyed or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer (CAVO) or his designate.

**All dogs staying in the Cayman Islands more than 30 days must be licensed with the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture.**

[Visit Cayman Islands Customs website to learn more.](#)

## **Pet Rabbits, Hamsters, Gerbils, Guinea Pigs and Chinchillas**

All Pet Rabbits, Hamsters, Gerbils, Guinea Pigs and Chinchillas entering the Cayman Islands must be accompanied by a health certificate issued within 14 days of arrival in the Cayman Islands by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian and endorsed by USDA APHIS. The requirements for traveling with your pet are described in the health certificate.

[International Health Certificate](#) (71.13 KB)

### **Other Pets**

For pet travel requirements not listed, APHIS has not been officially informed by the foreign country about the requirements for your pet's travel. We recommend that you contact a government official of the country you are traveling to for more information.

### **Country of Destination Contact Information**

[World Organisation for Animal Health: Members](#)

[U.S. Department of State: Foreign Embassies and Consulates](#)

■

## **Countries Participating in the European Union**

Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia

Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Republic of Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia

Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Netherlands  
Northern Ireland\*  
Norway\*\*  
Poland  
Portugal

Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland\*\*

\* Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom (UK), but will continue to follow European Union (EU) requirements even though the UK is no longer part of the EU.

\*\* Norway and Switzerland are **not** part of the EU but have adopted EU legislation for import of most species of live animals.

## **Important Travel Considerations**

### **Considerations for airline travel and cruises:**



Airlines and shipping lines have their own policies and requirements for transporting pets. Check with your airline or shipping representative to determine what requirements they may have.

[Learn how you can improve the safety of dogs and cats during air travel.](#)

[View additional information for pet owners, airlines, and others about APHIS endorsement of international health certificates](#) (239.52 KB).

If pets or support animals accompany you on a cruise, you must comply with entry rules for **every** country or port where your pet or support animal exits the ship.

## **Will you be returning to the United States with your pet?**



[View APHIS Requirements](#)

**ALERT:** If you're traveling with a dog, be aware that the [CDC has additional requirements for bringing a dog into the United States](#). You must follow CDC's requirements, or your dog will not be allowed to enter the United States.

**If you are transiting (passing through) the European Union:**



If your pet is traveling through (transiting) a country in the European Union (EU) on the way to a third, non-EU country, you will also need a transit health certificate for your pet for the EU. The transit health certificate will be the same as if your pet's final destination was the EU country. Use the information and steps above under "Travel Requirements Based on Pet Type" to determine which health certificate should be used. [View a list of EU countries.](#)

See More See Less

## Need Help?

[Guidance for Pet Owners](#)

[Read an overview of the process for taking your pet to another country and related resources.](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[View frequently asked questions about traveling with your pet.](#)

## Still Have Questions?

USDA-Accredited Veterinarians

Contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian for questions about your destination country's entry requirements for pets (including any needed vaccinations, tests, or treatments) and for issuance of health certificates.

[Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian](#)

USDA Endorsement Offices

Contact your nearest APHIS Veterinary Export Trade Services Endorsement Office for questions about endorsing a health certificate for pets.

For VEHCS help see the [VEHCS help page](#). Routine APHIS VEHCS processing services are staffed Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM Central Time (CT) excluding federal holidays, the time listed in VEHCS reflects GMT.

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Loading...

[All Contacts](#)

## Looking for Another Country?

Find your destination country requirements by using the dropdown menu below. If your country is not listed in the menu, visit [Pet Travel: Unknown Requirements](#).

Select Destination Country  ▼ [Go](#)

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